

00862.023463.



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KITAHIRO KANEDA, et al.) Examiner: Amelia Megan Au
Application No.: 10/781,869) Group Art Unit: 2623
Filed: February 20, 2004)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)
AND IMAGE PROCESSING)
SYSTEM) May 24, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii), effective October 21, 2004, copies of the U.S. patent document (1) is not provided. A copy of each of the documents (2) to (4) is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,486,686
- (2) Europe 1 256 900
- (3) Europe 0 751 672

(4) David Doermann, "The Indexing and Retrieval of Document Images: A Survey", Computer Vision and Image Understanding, Vol. 70, No. 3, Article No. IV980692, 287-298 (June 1998).


These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report from the European Patent Office, which is dated April 24, 2005, is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,466,329, which was also cited in the European Search Report, was previously cited in the June 21, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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